

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 remain in this Application. Claim 2 and 5 have been amended to include the limitations respectively of claims 3 and 6 and those claims canceled. New claim 7 having limitations the same as those in claim 4 has been added.

Claim 1 was rejected based on obviousness double patenting over claim 4 of the parent patent. Claims 2-6 were rejected as anticipated by Freidberg. A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed to overcome the rejection of claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, and 7 as claims 2 and 5 are amended.

Each of the claims now requires a strip of pericardium wound helically around the stent. The strip is required to have interlocking edges. In his rejection, the Examiner refers to Fig. 1 of Freidberg. What is shown in that figure is a jacket. As described in col. 5, at lines 24 et seq., the jacket is a cylinder; it is not a strip helically wound. Turning to the amended claims 2 and 5, it is clear that in the reference there is no strip of pericardium. Instead there is a sheet. A strip is not wrapped helically around the stent. And there are no interlocking edges. The elements indicated by reference number 18 although never mentioned are clearly sutures joining the edges of the rectangle of tissue, which are shown in abutment. There is no showing or teaching of any overlap, let alone interlocking edges. (See col. 5, lines 28-34.) The two arrangements are completely different and these claims are clearly allowable over the embodiment of Fig. 1.

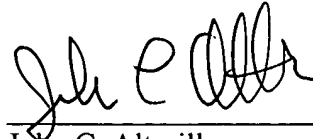
The claims as now presented also clearly define over Fig. 7, which does have a strip wound with overlapping edges. The edges do not, however, interlock as described and claimed in the present application.

In view of the above, it is believed that all claims in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to
Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 16, 2007



John C. Altmiller
Registration No. 25,951

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Telephone (202) 220-4200
Facsimile (202) 429-0796